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Leyburn Rural District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

1952



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LEYBURN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1952.

Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting the following report on the public health services of the Rural District Council for the year 1952.

GENERAL PROVISIONS.

Public Health Officers.

Medical Officer of Health :

W. SHARPE, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector :

W. SUTTON, M.S.I.A.

County Nursing Staff operating in district :

MISS K. E. MUNFORD, Leyburn.

MISS M. J. FAIRBURN, Redmire.

MRS. J. G. MCFARLANE, East Witton.

MRS. D. SMITH, Crakehall.

Ambulance Service.

The facilities provided by the County Council consist of an ambulance station at Richmond and Hospital Car Service vehicles which are located at Leyburn and Middleham.

Laboratory Service.

Public Health Laboratory, Friarage Hospital, Northallerton.

GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	63,613
Population (Estimated Mid-year 1951)	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,430
Inhabited houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	1836
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	£29,888
Product of 1d. Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£119.9

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Males	Females	Total	Rates / 1000 Home Pop.	
				Local	England & Wales
LIVE BIRTHS :					
Legitimate	56	48	104	16.8	15.3
Illegitimate	2	2	4		
STILL BIRTHS :					
Legitimate	0	1	1	9.17*	22.6*
Illegitimate	0	0	0		
DEATHS :					
All causes	41	27	68	10.6	11.3
Maternal causes	-	0	0	0.00	0.72
Infants under 1 year of age :					
Legitimate	1	2	3	27.8†	-
Illegitimate	0	0	0		
Enteritis and diarrhoea under 2 years	0	0	0	0.00	1.1

* Rates per 1,000 total (live and still) births.

† Rates per 1,000 live births.

POPULATION TREND.

	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948
Mid year population ..	6430	6465	6429	6390	6413
Birth rate ..	16.8	17.2	17.3	17.7	16.5
Death rate ..	10.6	12.1	10.3	11.3	10.6

CLASSIFIED CAUSES OF DEATH.

Causes of Death	Males	Females	Total	Rates / 1,000 Home Pop.	
				Local	England & Wales
ALL CAUSES	41	27	68	10.6	11.3
Tuberculosis	1	0	1	0.16	0.24
Cancer	6	5	11	1.71	—
Leukæmia, Aleukæmia	0	1	1	0.16	—
Cardio Vascular	20	15	35	5.44	—
Pneumonia	3	0	3	0.47	0.47
Other Respiratory Diseases	2	1	3	0.47	—
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	0	1	0.16	—
Congenital Malformation	0	2	2	0.31	—
Other defined and ill- defined diseases	7	2	9	1.40	—
Motor vehicle accidents	1	0	1	0.16	—
Other accidents	0	1	1	0.16	—

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Infectious Diseases Notified	Males	Females	Total	Rates / 1,000 Home Pop.	
				Local	England & Wales
Typhoid Fever	0	0	0	0.00	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever	0	0	0	0.00	0.02
Meningococcal Infection	0	0	0	0.00	0.03
Scarlet Fever	12	7	19	2.95	1.53
Whooping Cough	4	3	7	1.09	2.61
Diphtheria	0	0	0	0.00	0.01
Erysipelas	0	1	1	0.16	0.14
Smallpox	0	0	0	0.00	0.00
Measles	1	10	11	1.71	8.86
Pneumonia	3	2	5	0.78	0.72
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polioencephalitis)					
Paralytic	1	0	1	0.16	0.06
Non-Paralytic	0	0	0	0.00	0.03
Food Poisoning	0	0	0	0.00	0.13
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0	0	0.00*	17.9*

* Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births.

From the above statistical table it will be noted that the district was singularly free from notifiable infectious diseases throughout the year. The only disease which reached mild epidemic incidence was scarlet fever and this did not cause any great anxiety.

Once again I am pleased to report that there has been no case of diptheria during the year, but I would point out that we have had a reminder recently by an outbreak in two neighbouring areas that the disease has not been eradicated from the community but is only dormant. It is therefore, essential once again to stress the continuing need to maintain a high level of immunity amongst the child population. Although the immunisation rate in the district is improving it is still below the desired level as can be seen from the following table :—

<i>Age Group</i>	<i>Percentage Immunised</i>
0— 4 years	53
5—14 years	68

I would again emphasise the importance of vaccination against smallpox in infancy. This simple preventive measure is being seriously neglected by parents, since only approximately 33% of the children born in the district during the year were protected.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Group	New Cases		Deaths	
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
0— 4	-	1	-	1
5—15	1	-	-	-
15— 15 ⁺	2	-	-	-
	3	1	-	1

There were 28 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 3 cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis on the register at the 31st December, 1952, which gives a rate of 4.83 cases of Tuberculosis per 1,000 population as compared with 4.33 in 1951.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

It has not been necessary to take action under Section 47 of the above Act which deals with the compulsory removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE.

Water Supplies.

The work on the Sowden Beck distribution scheme having now been completed the major part of the district now has an adequate piped water supply. There are, however, still a few villages with private supplies which are subject to intermittent pollution and therefore a potential menace to the health of the area. These water schemes supply the villages of Redmire, Castle Bolton and Carlton. Improvements have been completed at the source of the last named with a consequent improvement in the quality of the supply.

There has been no improvement during the year to the Bellerby supply and it is still necessary to boil all water in this area to render it safe for human consumption.

I would strongly urge that the improvement of this supply be treated with a sense of urgency during the coming year.

Sewage Disposal.

There has been no additional work carried out during the year on sewerage or sewage disposal, although a number of communities are still without an adequate sewage disposal system. I appreciate that it is the Council's earnest desire to provide these plants and that they are only prevented from doing so by the economic situation.

The schemes which are now outstanding even if the capital expenditure was allowed by the central administration, which is doubtful, would not rank for grant under the Rural Water Supplies and Sewage Act, 1944. This would throw a very heavy burden on the local ratepayer which the Council do not consider justifiable at the present time. It seems therefore, that before these rural areas can be provided with the amenities which is their right, some alteration will have to be made by the Central Government, in their conditions for grant aid.

Refuse Disposal.

The collection of household refuse in the district continues to be satisfactory. The weekly collection in the larger townships and fortnightly collection in the more rural areas has been maintained.

The tipping facilities however still leave a lot to be desired and it is difficult to see how they can be improved on the present sites. A new site is urgently required.

Camp Sites.

There are no camp sites in the area.

Ice Cream.

There are no ice cream manufacturers in the district but there are 15 registered dealers as follows :—

Leyburn	...	...	...	7
Middleham	...	...	...	3
Bellerby	...	...	...	1
Harmby	...	...	...	1
Hunton	...	...	...	1
East Witton	...	...	...	1
West Witton	...	...	...	1

Meat and Food.

Centralised slaughter of animals for human consumption in the district is carried out at Leyburn. Although minor improvements in the condition of the abattoir have taken place during the year, the premises are still totally unsuitable for the killing and inspection of meat. It appears that very little improvement can be hoped for, until the central administration decides what its slaughtering and meat distribution policy is going to be. Meanwhile we can only continue to deplore the unsatisfactory conditions existing at present.

It is pertinent in this report to point out to the members of the Council the unsatisfactory system under which meat inspection at Government Abattoirs is conducted.

It would seem that there is no uniform procedure of dealing with condemned meat in these abattoirs, and no direct guidance can be obtained from the Ministry concerned. This unfortunate situation has of course arisen since the transfer of slaughter-houses to the Ministry of Food in 1940. Before that date the procedure to be adopted was laid down by the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, but it now seems extremely doubtful whether or not this Act can now be applied. It has been apparently superseded in the case of Government Abattoirs by a series of regulations. The answer to this question is very important from the view of the local sanitary authority, as has been exemplified during the year when a claim for compensation was made against the Council, where it was alleged that a carcase was wrongly condemned by the meat Inspector.

A definite ruling on this problem is long overdue.

Housing.

During the year the Council have completed 26 houses. The most serious aspect of the housing problem in the area is now the number of sub-standard and unfit houses which are still inhabited. The position gets increasingly worse with each succeeding year since very little attempt is made by the majority of property owners to carry out effective repairs or improvements.

It is strongly urged that a more ruthless policy be adopted by the Council in dealing with property which is prejudicial to health.

The tables appended show the work carried out during the year by the Sanitary department.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WM. SHARPE,

Medical Officer of Health.

Thornborough Hall,

LEYBURN,

July, 1953.

APPENDIX.

INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT BY SANITARY INSPECTOR.

A total of 965 Inspections were made during the year, and analysis of these is given below :—

	In- spections	Informal Notices	Not complied with	Statutory Notices	Not complied with
Council's Works	398	—	—	—	—
Housing	289	3	—	—	—
Slaughterhouse	163	—	—	—	—
Dairies	33	—	—	—	—
Public Health Acts ..	82	—	—	—	—
Total	965	3	—	—	—

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

	Powered, Non- powered	Number on Register	In- spections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers prose- cuted.
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority ..	20	20	6	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) to which Section 7 applies	52	52	2	—	—
Total	72	72	8	—	—

Particulars	Powered	Number of cases in which defects were found			
		Found	Remedied	Notified by H.M. Inspector	Number of cases in which pros- ecutions were instituted
Want of Cleanliness	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation ..	1	1	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences :					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes*	—	—	—	—	—

* (In only four cases are there both sexes employed and sanitary conveniences are separate and adequate).

Trades.

Builders	...	...	...	10
Plumbers	...	...	...	8
Joiners	...	...	...	11
Electricians	...	...	...	4
Bakers	...	...	...	3
Motor Repair Shops	...	...	...	8
Blacksmiths	...	...	...	7
Milk Receiving Depots	...	...	...	2
Cheese Factory	...	...	...	1
Sawmills	...	...	...	1
Sand and Gravel	...	...	...	1
Saddler	...	...	...	1
Quarries	...	...	...	7
Printers	...	...	...	2
Boot and Shoe Repairers	...	...	...	6
				—
				72
				—

HOUSING AND NEW BUILDINGS.

The tables below gives details of houses under construction and those completed since 1945 in the respective parishes :—

By Private Enterprise.

Parish				Completed	Under Construction at end of year
Coverham	...	...	...	6	-
Finghall	...	...	...	1	-
Harmby	...	...	...	1	-
Hornby	...	...	...	3	-
Hunton	...	...	...	1	1
Leyburn	...	...	...	20	6
Middleham	...	...	...	2	-
Newton-le-Willows	...	...	...	-	1
Patrick Brompton	...	...	...	1	-
Preston	...	...	...	1	-
Thornton Steward	...	...	...	1	-
Wensley	...	...	...	-	1
West Witton	...	...	...	1	-
Total				38	9

By Leyburn Rural District Council.

Parish	Completed	Under construction at end of year
Arrathorne	4	-
Bellerby	10	-
Constable Burton	10	-
East Witton	4	-
Finghall	8	-
Harmby	6	-
Hunton	14	-
Leyburn	64	4
Middleham	24	-
Newton-le-Willows	2	2
Patrick Brompton	2	-
Preston	3	-
Redmire	6	-
Spennithorne	14	-
Thornton Steward	4	-
Wensley	2	2
West Witton	8	-
Total	185	8

Works of adaptation have been carried out resulting in the provision of one flat and five new dwellings by private enterprise.

Building Licences.

The following table gives details of work licensed during the year 1952.

	No.	Values
New dwellings	12	£25,655
Repairs and adaptations	24	£6,714
Total	36	£32,369

Plans.

41 plans were considered during the year. Details are shown in the table.

Parish	New Build- ings	Altera- tions to dwellings	Garages and sheds	Cowsheds and Dairies	Other Build- ings	Total
Hunton ..	—	—	—	—	1	1
Bellerby ..	—	—	2	—	1	3
Leyburn ..	9	—	2	2	2	15
Patrick Brompton ..	1	2	—	—	1	4
Wensley ..	1	2	—	—	1	4
Castle Bolton ..	—	1	—	—	—	1
Thornton Steward ..	—	—	1	—	—	1
Carlton ..	—	—	1	—	—	1
Middleham ..	—	1	1	—	1	3
West Witton ..	—	1	—	1	—	2
West Scafton ..	—	—	—	1	—	1
Finghall ..	1	—	—	—	1	2
Redmire ..	—	—	—	—	1	1
Hauxwell ..	—	—	—	—	1	1
Newton-le-Willows ..	—	—	—	—	1	1
Total ..	12	7	7	4	11	41

BACTERIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF WATER.

Smpl No.	Date of Sampling	Address	Summary of Analyst's Report.
186	13/3/52	Cranehow Supply	Highly satisfactory.
188	13/3/52	Thornton Steward (tap in School)	Suspicious.
189	20/5/52	Cranehow Supply	Satisfactory for human consumption.
190	20/6/52	Sowden Beck Supply (Reservoir)	Cannot be regarded as suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.
191	21/6/52	Sowden Beck Supply (Tap in house at Thornton Steward)	Not suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.
192	21/6/52	Sowden Beck Supply (tap in School at Thornton Steward)	Suspicious.
193	8/7/52	Sowden Beck Supply (spring in field)	Suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.
194	8/7/52	Sowden Beck Supply (spring in field)	Suspicious.
196	8/10/52	Woodhouse Farm, Thornton Steward	Satisfactory.
197	8/10/52	Aysgarth School (tap in kitchen)	Suspicious.
198	12/11/52	Sowden Beck Supply (spring)	Satisfactory.
199	12/11/52	Sowden Beck Supply (water outcrop on East Witton Fell)	Satisfactory.
200	12/11/52	Sowden Beck Supply (tap in Thornton Steward School)	Satisfactory.
201	1/12/52	Bellerby Supply (tap in School)	Satisfactory.

Chemical Analysis of Water.

Smpl No.	Date of Sampling	Address	Summary of Analyst's Report.
187	13/3/52	Sowden Beck Supply (tap in house— Thornton Steward)	The sample affords no evidence of pollution by sewage or other foul drainage. The supply requires treatment to neutralise its acidity before it is safe to use copper or lead pipes for its distribution.
195	30/6/52	Cranehow Supply (disused lead mine)	Suitable for drinking purposes.

MEAT INSPECTIONS.

	Graded Animals	Casualty Animals
Beasts ..	433	—
Cows ..	—	137
Calves ..	—	60
Sheep ..	1864	165
Pigs ..	113	58

Total weight of meat and offal condemned, 13 tons, 16 cwts. 3 qrs.

Total weight affected with tuberculosis, 4 tons, 8 cwts, 2 qrs.

Details of carcasses inspected and condemned.

	Cattle (ex cluding Cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	433	137	60	2029	171
Number inspected	433	137	60	2029	171
All diseases except tuberculosis—					
Whole carcasses condemned	4	30	19	44	8
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	127	80	7	36	9
Percentage of number inspected with diseases other than T.B.	30.2%	80.2%	43.3%	3.9%	9.9%
Tuberculosis only—					
Whole carcasses condemned	3	15	1	—	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	35	13	—	—	5
Percentage of the number inspected affected with T.B.	8.7%	20.4%	1.6%	—	3.5%

Food Inspections.

During the year the following food stuffs were inspected and surrendered as being unfit for human consumption.

Article	Quantity	Weight
Strawberries	4 tins	4 lbs.
Oranges	4 „	4 lbs.
Apples	1 „	13½ ozs.
Salmon	1 „	1 lb.
Luncheon Meat	1 „	4 lbs.
Cherries	19 „	16 lbs.
Bacon	1 side	24 lbs.

Plews & Sons, Printers, Leyburn.

